

impossible any such widespread industrialization as in the United States and Western Europe. Then, too, raw materials are often of uneven or poor quality—notably silk and cotton, which are so extensively utilized by the new factories. These handicaps are-all removable, and it is conceivable that a few decades hence they will be much less in evidence than to-day. It is probable, however, that the more fundamental lack in natural resources can never be fully remedied. We have earlier seen that the coal and iron reserves of China do not begin to equal those of the United States or of Western Europe. They are, to be sure, much larger than those of any other region on the Pacific rim, and the potential hydroelectric power is enormous. Still it is doubtful whether any such thorough-going industrialization can be achieved by appliances now known as has taken place in Great Britain or in the northeastern portions of the United States.

Perhaps it is just as well that the industrialization of China by the new methods from the West is proceeding no more rapidly. Were it to come on apace it might bring with it problems much more quickly than China could solve them. The urbanization of life with the resulting disintegration of the family and the other old forms of social control, the exploitation of labor, and the violent clashes of employers and employees are only some of the conditions which the country would face. They might prove even more disastrous than the recent political upheavals. The gradual arrival of the factory system may give the country time to work out the necessary safeguards.

MINING

The Chinese have long been making use of the mineral resources of their land. From very early days they

have known iron,
copper, bronze, zinc, gold, silver, and lead. In
mining coal they
antedated Western Europe. Coal was probably
utilized at least
as early as the fifth century A.D. and as far back as
the T'ang was
employed in smelting iron. Shansi was the center of
iron manu-
facture for the North, for here are large deposits
of coal as well
as some iron ore. In Szechwan salt was produced
from brine
which was pumped from wells, some of them two
or three thou-
sand feet deep, notable engineering feats bored by
a primitive but
effective type of the percussion process now so
widely used in the